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ABSTRACT

Twenty-five nonfiction and 18 fiction and folklore listings are included in this bulletin on Vietnam in childrens' books. Slides, filmstrips, and film listings are also included. Each listing is accompanied by a brief annotation. Subjects include customs and culture, the country and the people, Ho Chi Min, the Vietnamese revolution, Vietnamese cookery, a history of Vietnam from ancient past to uncertain future, stories from Vietnam, folk tales, fairy tales, legends, and folk poetry. The filmstrip included concerns living in South Vietnam. The film's main focus is stated to be the progress after the bombing halt in 1973. An introduction to American involvement from World War II through 1965 is presented in the slide materials, which include historical photos, Vietnamese artwork, and images of a land and people at war. (Author/AM)

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VIETNAM IN CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Nonfiction

Archer, Jules. HO CHI MING: LEGEND OF HANOI. N.Y., Crowell-Collier, c1971. 199p. $4.95. Gr. 6-9.
A biography of Ho Chi Minh, whose entire life was devoted to the liberation of his country from colonialist rule and the establishment of Vietnam as an independent and socialist country.

"Behold the Star." $.35. Booklet on Christmas and the Tet Festival in Vietnam and about customs there. This part of an AFSC fund-raising project contains much useful information. Available from:
Children's Program
American Friends Service Committee
160 North 15th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Buell, Hal. VIETNAM: LAND OF MANY DRAGONS. Illus. w. photos and maps. N.Y., Dodd, Mead, c1968. 142p. $4.50. Jr. High up.
Brief text and many excellent, amply captioned black and white photos on the land and people of Vietnam. Text concentrates on the division of the country, the fighting, and the history of American involvement, while photos bring out non-wartime aspects of daily living. (Note that the author uses judgemental words such as "primitive" and "backward" in describing some Asians.)

Cooke, David C. VIETNAM: THE COUNTRY, THE PEOPLE. N.Y., W.W. Norton, c1968. 147p. Illus. w. photos. Gr. 5-9.
This book avoids discussion of the war and its effects on Vietnamese life and concentrates instead on the people and their traditions. He covers Vietnamese history, geography, family life, village life, language, beliefs, and customs.

Crawford, Ann Caddell. CUSTOMS AND CULTURE OF VIETNAM. Illus. by Hau Dinh Cam. Rutland, VT, Tuttle, c1966. 206p. $4.35. Gr. 6 up.
A concise guide to Vietnam: the land, history, language, people, institutions, religion, customs, folklore, the arts, economy, places of interest, etc., emphasizing day to day life. Appendices about the former Republic are dated but there are useful appendices on tribal minorities north and south and basic language, including pronunciation, glossary, and useful phrases.

Dareff, Hal. THE STORY OF VIETNAM: A BACKGROUND BOOK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. N.Y., Parents' Magazine, c1966. 250p. $4.59. Gr. 7 up.
A carefully researched, unusually well presented history of Vietnam: the origins of the Vietnamese, the impact of European colonialism, the division into North Vietnam and South Vietnam, the rise of Communist power, and the reasons for the American involvement in South Vietnam. An absorbing account somewhat marred by vagueness in dating the events contemporary at the time of publication.

UD 015672

Forney, Inor and E.H. OUR FRIENDS IN VIETNAM. Rutland, VT, Tuttle, c1967. $1.10. Gr. K-3.

A coloring book with substantial, simple text, which emphasizes the social and cultural aspects of Vietnamese children, seen through the foreigner's eye. An illustrated glossary on both clothes and objects found in the pictures to color.

Goldston, Richard. THE VIETNAMESE REVOLUTION. Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill, c1972. 194p. $5.95. Gr. 7 up.

The agonizing history of Vietnam, which probes American contributions to the agony in "the years in which the Vietnamese Revolution finally reached the United States."

Hammer, Ellen. VIETNAM YESTERDAY AND TODAY. N.Y., Holt, Rinehart, c1966. 282p. (Contemporary Civilization Series). $3.95. Jr. High up.

More scholarly than the book by Ann Crawford, this is a discussion of this country's history and culture and institutions up to the mid-1960's. Certain chapters may be useful for mature junior high and high school students, but in its entirety, this volume is more for adult use and as background information for teachers in all levels of education. Glossary, bibliography, and index included.

Henderson, Larry. VIETNAM AND COUNTRIES OF THE MEKONG. N.Y., Nelson, rev. ed. 1972. 224p. $5.95. Gr. 6 up.

Five chapters cover the history of Vietnam, something about the North and the South, the development of the war and U.S. involvement, followed by chapters on Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Burma and the general Mekong Delta area. There is a list of books for further reading.

Kotula, John D. COME ALONG TO VIETNAM. Minneapolis, Denison, 1973. 187p. Biblio. $5.85. (Countries of the World Series).

Description of life and customs in cities and villages of the south. Text, from the perspective of an adult tourist, is gauche and garbled, but the book includes many photos of high interest though of varying quality.

Lifton, Betty Jean and Thomas C. CHILDREN OF VIETNAM. Illus. w. photographs by Thomas C. Fox. N.Y., Atheneum, 1972. 111p. $5.50. Gr. 7 up.

Vignettes of various children of South Vietnam: the sheltered children of the rich, street boys, orphans, war wounded, dispossessed, and Amerasians - none of whom have ever known peace.

Liss, Howard. THE MIGHTY MEKONG. Illus. w. photos. N.Y., Hawthorn, 1967. 112p. $3.95. Gr. 7 up.

A trip along the Mekong River includes a brief chapter on the history, customs, and religion of the Vietnamese of the Mekong, which also touches Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand. Photos are fair.

Miller, Jill Nhu Huong. VIETNAMESE COOKERY. Rutland, VT, Tuttle, c1968. 118p. Gr. 7 up

An authentic collection of Vietnamese recipes, from hors d'oeuvres through desserts. Added features include a brief description of Vietnamese cookery, equipment needed, and a glossary providing substitutes for hard-to-find foods. Out of print, but available in many libraries.

Nguyen Cao Dan and Tran Cao Linh. VIETNAM: OUR BELOVED LAND. Illus. w. photos. Rutland, VT, Tuttle, c1968. 128p. $3.85. Gr. 6 up.
Photos from South Vietnam. Only one small section, entitled "The Vietnamese Soldier," deals with Vietnam in wartime. The others - "Plains and Meadows," "The Sea," "Sand Dunes," etc. - show the timeless beauty of the country.

Nguyen-Dinh-Hoa. EASY VIETNAMESE. Rutland, VT, Tuttle, c1969. 135p. $1.25.
A pocket-size guide to spoken Vietnamese; a revised and expanded edition of the Vietnamese Phrase Book. Provides words and expressions most likely needed by the traveler and student. Includes a key to pronunciation and an index.

_____. VIETNAMESE ENGLISH DICTIONARY. Rutland, VT, Tuttle. 568p. $7.15.
Not reviewed.

Nielsen, Jon with Kay Nielsen. ARTIST IN SOUTH VIETNAM. N.Y., Messner, c1969. 64p. $4.95; lib. bdg. $4.65. Gr. 3 up.
A cartoonist-illustrator presents the South Vietnamese people in black and white sketches. Brief text adds meaning to the illustrations which show daily life. Useful for recreational as well as educational purposes.

Poole, Peter A. DIEN BIEN PHU, 1954; THE BATTLE THAT ENDED THE FIRST INDOCHINA WAR. Illus. w. photos. N.Y., Watts, c1972. 90p. (A World Focus Book). $3.45. Gr. 6 up.
The story of the battle that spelled the downfall of the French empire in Vietnam. Chronology, index.

Sheldon, Walter J. TIGERS IN THE RICE; THE STORY OF VIETNAM FROM ANCIENT PAST TO UNCERTAIN FUTURE. N.Y., Macmillan, c1969. 133p. $4.95. Gr. 7 up.
The history of Vietnam from a thousand years of Chinese conquest to recent travail. The sections on the Vietnamese conflict are confined ideologically and in time to a pre-"Pentagon Papers" view. Readable, but dated by the slant.

Sully, Françoise, editor. WE THE VIETNAMESE; VOICES FROM VIETNAM. Illus. w. photos. N.Y., Praeger, c1971. 270p. $7.50; paper $2.95. Gr. 7 up.
Selections of writing from the two Vietnams covering the land and people, beliefs and customs, literature and art, and history.

Thuy, Vuong Gia. VIETNAMESE IN A NUTSHELL. N.Y., Crowell, 1974. 256p. $2.45.
A phrasebook and basic grammar of Vietnamese for the English speaker.

VIETNAM; LAND OF THE DANCING DRAGON (Tet Festival)
VIETNAM; A TIME FOR WORK
VIETNAM; WHERE BOATS HAVE EYES
Education Division, Taylor Publishing Co., P.O. Box 597, Dallas, TX 75221. $12.00 for set of 8 cards.
Eight study prints in each set with color photographs 17-3/8" x 17-3/8" on front and accompanying story on back.

West, Fred. GETTING TO KNOW THE TWO VIETNAMS. Illus. by Polly Borian. N.Y., Coward-McCann, c1967. 64p. $3.68. Gr. 3-5.
Does a hasty sprint over political and social problems but spells out many interesting features of the cultural background of Vietnam's various peoples, especially the participation of children in the tradition. Includes chronology through 1967.

Fiction and Folklore

BANH CHUNG BANH DAY: THE NEW YEAR'S RICE CAKES. Trans. and dist. by Indochina Resource Center, P.O. Box 4000D, Berkeley, CA 94704. $.50 ea.; or $.35 ea., for orders of 10 or more (add 20% postage to all orders). 22p. Gr. 2-5.

A folktale for children to color or paint, translated from a Vietnamese children's book and telling the legend of the beginnings of Vietnam's rice cultivation. A prince brings back to his father the most precious gift of rice and their festivities reflect the happy expectations at Tetm the lunar New Year's.

CHILDREN OF THE DRAGON. Peoples Press, 2680 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94110. c1975.

A legend that also relates a lesson in the turbulent history of the people of Vietnam. With stirring cover art.

CHILDREN OF VIET-NAM. Trans. and dist. by Indochina Resource Center, same address and price as above. Gr. 2-5.

A story book and a coloring book illustrated by Vietnamese artists and including poems written by children during a Vietnamese poetry contest held during the 1969-70 school year and a letter from Ho Chi Minh to the children at the mid-August festival in 1945.

Coutant, Helen. FIRST SNOW. Illus. by Vo Dinh. N.Y., Knopf, 1974. 36p. $4.50; lib. bdg. $4.99. Ages 5-8.

A little girl from Vietnam first encounters snow in the New England town to which her family has moved. Guided by her wise grandmother, she begins to understand the meaning of life and death. A sober but graceful introduction to the cycle of life and death.

Dunn, Mary Lois. THE MAN IN THE BOX: A STORY FROM VIETNAM. N.Y., McGraw-Hill, c1968. 155p. $4.50; lib. bdg. $4.33. Gr. 6-10.

A young Montagnard boy whose father was killed by the Viet Cong helps an imprisoned American soldier escape his captors. An exciting adventure story with a strong message about the courage and suffering of the Vietnamese people in the war.

FOLK TALES FROM ASIA FOR CHILDREN EVERYWHERE, co-sponsored by the Tokyo Book Development Center and the Asian Cultural Center for UNESCO. N.Y., Weatherhill, 1975. Book 1. 52p. $2.45. Gr. 2-6.

"The Story of the Betel and the Areca" in Book One of this excellent 2-volume set of tellable tales is retold, translated, and illustrated by a Vietnamese. The story, based on a doomed love triangle, explains why the areca nut and betel leaf are part of the Vietnamese wedding ceremony.

Forney, Inor. NHAN, A BOY OF VIETNAM. Story edited by Joanne Robinson; illus. by the author. Rutland, VT, Tuttle, c1969. 26p. $1.10. Gr. 2-4.

Tells briefly what life is like for a 10 year old boy who sells newspapers in Saigon and dreams of the moon festival and of crickets. Although dated by its slant on the side of American presence in Vietnam, the illustrations and the text will be thought-provoking for children.

Monigold, Glenn W., compiler. FOLK TALES FROM VIETNAM. Illus. by Jeanyee Wong. Mount Vernon, NY, Peter Pauper Press, c1964. 61p. $1.25. Gr. 6-8.

Ten zestful South Vietnamese folk tales in a pocket-size format. Useful for reading aloud and storytelling.

Nielsen, Jon and Kay Nielsen. THE WISHING PEARL AND OTHER TALES OF VIETNAM. Trans. by Lam Chan Quan. Irvington-on-Hudson, NY, Harvey House, c1969. 47p. $4.95; lib. bdg. $4.64. Gr. K-4.

Seven tales illustrated in full-page and two-page water color. Useful for story-telling and story hours. Translations were done by a Vietnamese.

Osborne, Leone Neal. THAN HOA OF VIETNAM. Illus. by Ruth Boynton. N.Y., McGraw-Hill, c1966. 61p. $2.75. Gr. 2-4.

In a small Buddhist mountain village during tranquil days a boy traps a yellow tiger and is granted schooling as a reward. Lively drawings of daily life but woeful focus on the tiger as menace. Out of print but available in libraries. Recommended with reservation.

Robertson, Dorothy Lewis. FAIRY TALES FROM VIETNAM. Illus. by W.T. Mars. N.Y., Dodd, Mead, c1968. 93p. $4.50; lib. bdg. $3.50. Gr. 3-7.

Nine Vietnamese fairy tales set down by a Vietnamese boy in Saigon for his American foster mother.

Schultz, George F. VIETNAMESE LEGENDS. Adapted. Rutland, VT, Tuttle, c1965. 163p. $3.50. Gr. 7-9.

32 adaptations of South Vietnamese legends that reveal Vietnamese culture, life and philosophy. Forward explains the mix of elements from Chinese and Vietnamese civilizations present in the tales.

Sun, Ruth Q. LAND OF SEAGULL AND FOX; FOLK TALES OF VIETNAM. Illus. by Ho Thanh Duc. Rutland, VT, Tuttle, c1966. 135p. $5.50. Gr. 6 up.

31 legends selected for a Western audience and most representative of Vietnamese legends, illustrated with full-page line drawings. Small print and mature vocabulary make the text inappropriate for the very young but the stories are brief and may be adapted for storytelling. Has a useful introduction about the Vietnamese people and their legends, plus a chronology of the country's history. Title alludes to the origin myth of lowland dwellers and the Montagnards ("seagulls" and "foxes").

Tanaka, Beatrice. THE TORTOISE AND THE SWORD. NY, Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1972. 46p. $4.50; lib. bdg. $4.14. Gr. 2-5.

A legend recreating the story of Le Loi, who with his countrymen fought and eventually defeated the foreign invaders. Concluding the story are stanzas from a 15th C. epic, "The Proclamation of Peace." Author's illustrations are block prints in the style of Vietnamese cut-paper art.

Taylor, Mark. THE FISHERMAN AND THE GOBLET. Illus. by Taro Yashima. San Carlos, CA, Golden Gate, c1970. 32p. $6.39. Gr. 3 up.

A haunting tale of a mandarin's daughter and a poor young fisherman who won her love with his beautiful flute-playing. But the girl rejected him when she saw that his face was ugly. Only later did she realize that a heart that can make beautiful music is more important than an ugly face. But then it was too late.

Tooze, Ruth. SWIMMER FROM THE SEA. Illus. by Kurt Wiese. N.Y., Viking, c1962.

Ti Nnag Dinh, though small, wants to help bring in the big fish nets and show he is growing up. Striking and humorous color illustrations. Out of print but available in libraries.

VIETNAMESE FOLK POETRY. Trans. by John Balaban. Greensboro, North Carolina, Unicorn Press, P.O. Box 3307. 1975. paper.
In an attractive little volume many short lyrics which could be read with children.

Vo-Dinh, Retel. THE TOAD IS THE EMPEROR'S UNCLE. Illus. by Vo-Dinh. N.Y., Doubleday, c1970. 141p. $3.95; lib. bdg. $4.70 net. Gr. 3-6.
A collection of animal folk tales from Vietnam. The compiler, Vo-Dinh, is an artist; his black and white paintings greatly enhance the text.

Not Reviewed

Pratt, D and Blair, L. SALMAGUNDI VIETNAM. Rutland, VT, Tuttle. Illus. 190p. $2.75 paper.
Humor

Slides

HOW THE UNITED STATES GOT INVOLVED IN VIETNAM. Cambridge, Mass., Indochina Curriculum Group. Complete show (60 slides and script): rental, $5.00; purchase, $15.00. Order from: 11 Garden St., Cambridge, Mass. 02138.
An introduction to American involvement from World War II through 1965. Slide range includes historical photos, Vietnamese artwork, and images of a land and people at war. (pub. catalog) Not previewed.

Filmstrip

LIVING IN SOUTH VIETNAM. Color, sound, SVE, 1971. Strip 1, South Vietnam: historical background and modern problems (52 frames, 17 min.); Strip 2, South Vietnam today (56 frames, 13 min.). Each filmstrip w. teacher's guide $7.00; set of 2 filmstrips 1 record, 2 guides $18.00. Gr. Intermediate - Sr. High.
Catalog description emphasizes development, rural and urban life, geography, and culture rather than the war. Not previewed.

Film

THE YEAR OF THE TIGER, 1973. 62 min. 16mm, rental: $60 (classroom use); $100 (open showing); shipping $5.00. Dist. by Odeon Films, 1619 Broadway, New York, NY 10019
Made by the first American filmmakers in North Vietnam after the bombing halt in 1973, of everyday life in the north and the parts of the south then controlled by the P.R.G. Film's main focus is progress, not destruction: agricultural coops, schools, day care centers, clinics, etc. Not previewed.

These books and materials should be in larger schools and libraries. They should be ordered from the publisher or your local bookseller, not from us. To locate current addresses consult LITERARY MARKET PLACE or BOOKS IN PRINT.

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